



**The Gospel of Mark – How's Your Unbelief?
Pastor Tosha Zwanziger 07.14.2024**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Mark 9:14-29]

And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire

and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

"I believe, but help my unbelief!"

God doesn't despise those who struggle with unbelief.... In fact, He gives grace to those who humbly and desperately cry out for help.

Unbelief doesn't disqualify you as a disciple, but it should cause you to desperately CRY out to God!

How much faith does it take?

- 1. Enough FAITH to get up and go to where Jesus is!**
- 2. Enough FAITH to agree with what God says and say "YES"!**
- 3. Enough FAITH to cry out even in the face of the crowd!**

[Psalm 51:17]

O God, you will not despise a broken and contrite heart.

[Romans 10:13]

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved...

[Psalm 40:1]

I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned and heard my cry.

[Psalm 34:17-20]

The Lord hears His people when they call to Him for help. He rescues them from their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

[Psalm 120:1]

I call on the Lord in my distress and He answers me.

Key Points:

How much faith does it take?

1. Enough FAITH to get up and go to where Jesus is!
2. Enough FAITH to agree with what God says and say "YES"!
3. Enough FAITH to cry out even in the face of the crowd!

Applications for the Week:

Pastor Tosha mentioned that even a small amount of faith, like a mustard seed, is powerful. This week, take a small step of faith to trust God more in a specific area of your life. Cultivate a heart of desperation for God in your daily life through prayer, time in the Bible, and times of worship.

Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on a time when you experienced doubt in your faith. How did you handle it, and what was the outcome?
2. What was the reaction of the crowd when they saw Jesus in Mark 9:15?
3. What does the father's statement, "I believe; help my unbelief," reveal about the nature of faith and doubt?
4. How does Jesus' response to the father's doubt demonstrate His compassion and power?
5. The father in the story cried out to Jesus in desperation. Is there a situation in your life where you need to cry out to God? How can you do that this week?
6. The sermon highlighted that God meets us in our doubts and does not despise us for them. How can we remind ourselves of this truth when we face doubts in the future?
7. In what ways do the disciples' struggles with casting out the demon reflect common challenges in our own faith journeys?
8. How does the story of the boy with the unclean spirit illustrate the tension between faith and doubt in a believer's life?
9. Pastor Tosha emphasized the importance of being honest with God about our doubts. How can you create a habit of bringing your doubts and questions before God in prayer?